

Serial Number 09/778,333 filed February 7, 2001

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and substantially no chemical reaction occurs between said molten component and said molten thermoplastic polymer.

In the Abstract

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 53, line 5, following the Abstract of the Invention, with the following rewritten paragraph:

—We have developed a process and product which provide thermoplastic articles featuring a permanent outer surface which has selectively varied chemical functionality while maintaining the inherent mechanical properties of the base fiber. The process comprises the steps of:

(a) adding a substantially organic molten component with CSP value of at least 8 to a molten thermoplastic polymer and mixing to substantially uniformly disperse the molten component in the molten thermoplastic polymer and form a heterogeneous blend wherein

(i) the melt viscosity of the molten component is substantially less than the melt viscosity of the molten thermoplastic polymer; and

(ii) the amount of the molten component in the molten thermoplastic polymer is up to about ten percent by weight based on the heterogeneous blend; and

(b) melt processing the heterogeneous blend wherein the molten component preferentially locates near the surface of the molten thermoplastic polymer and substantially no chemical reaction occurs between the molten component and the molten thermoplastic polymer. —

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